

IPW 2616

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Dated: January 20, 2006

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

(Opelle R. Cockings)

Docket No.: SONYJP 3.0-185  
(PATENT)



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:  
Motoki Kato

Application No.: 09/872,147

Group Art Unit: 2616

Filed: June 1, 2001

Examiner: Helen Shibru

For: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR IMAGE  
CODING AND DECODING

RESPONSE

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Official Action mailed December 23, 2005, in which claims 1-53 were held subject to an election requirement the following remarks are respectfully submitted.

REMARKS

Applicant notes with appreciation the interview of January 19, 2005, among Examiners Shibru, Boccio and the undersigned. Applicant particularly appreciates the Examiners' comments that the election of one distinct sub-specie and the claims reading thereon would likely satisfy the restriction requirement. Applicant respectfully submits that the elections set forth below are consistent with the discussions in the Interview. If for any reason the Examiner believes that this response is contrary to those discussions, it is respectfully requested that she telephone the undersigned.

In the Official Action of December 23, 2005, the Examiner required an election under 35 U.S.C. §121 among four allegedly distinct species and eight allegedly distinct subspecies of the